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South-South cooperation for development

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High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation
Seventeenth session
New York, 22-25 May 2012

Draft decision submitted by the Chair of the Working Group, Alison Chartres (Australia), on the basis of informal consultations

South-South cooperation

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which the Assembly endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1]

Reaffirming also the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009,[2]

Noting that the aid architecture has changed significantly in the current decade, with new aid providers and novel partnership approaches, which utilize new modalities of cooperation, having contributed to increasing the flow of resources, and that the interplay of development assistance with private investment, trade and new development actors provides new opportunities for aid to leverage private resource flows,

Reiterating its support for South-South cooperation as well as triangular cooperation, which provides much-needed additional resources for the implementation of development programmes,

Recognizing the importance and the different history and particularities of South-South cooperation, stressing that South-South cooperation should be seen as an expression of solidarity and cooperation among countries based on their shared experiences and objectives, and that both forms of cooperation support a development agenda that addresses the particular needs and expectations of developing countries, while also recognizing that South-South cooperation

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[2] General Assembly resolution 64/222, annex.

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complements rather than substitutes for North-South cooperation, and acknowledging the role played by middle-income developing countries as providers and recipients of development cooperation,

Calling upon the developing countries, guided by a common spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020[3] and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries[4] in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation,

Recalling its decision 16/1 regarding the action needed for the implementation of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

1. *Takes note* of the reports on the state of South-South cooperation entitled "Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation and the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation"[5] and "Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme";[6]

2. *Also takes note* of the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation,[7] and, recognizing the guidelines as an evolving document, requests the Secretariat to take into account the perspectives, concerns, ideas and experiences of Member States when updating them, and decides to further consider them at the eighteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation;

3. *Stresses* that the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation is a key intergovernmental body in the United Nations system for reviewing and assessing global and system-wide progress on and support for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, and in this context emphasizes the continuing need to evaluate the effectiveness of the work and processes of the High-level Committee;

4. *Recognizes* that South-South, triangular and North-South cooperation share internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and encourages Member States and relevant organizations to share their experiences in the delivery of development cooperation to accelerate efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and in the formulation of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda;

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[3] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. II.

[4] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

[5] SSC/17/1.

[6] SSC/17/2.

[7] See SSC/17/3.

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of strengthening South-South cooperation, especially in the current international economic environment, and reiterates its support for South-South cooperation as a strategy to sustain the development efforts of developing countries and also as a means of enhancing their participation in the global economy;

6. *Invites* United Nations funds and programmes as well as the specialized agencies, in accordance with their own mandates and programmes of work and priorities set by their governing bodies, to take concrete measures to mainstream support for South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, in order to help developing countries to build capacities for maximizing the benefits and impact of South-South and triangular cooperation;

7. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize adequate resources for enhancing South-South cooperation and in this context invites all countries in a position to do so, especially those providing South-South cooperation, to contribute to such cooperation through, inter alia, the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation and the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation;

8. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, hosted by the United Nations Development Programme, as a separate entity and coordinator for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis, decides to rename the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation the "United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation", and requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and as part of his comprehensive report to the eighteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, to present concrete recommendations for strengthening the Office, including its responsiveness, effectiveness and efficiency, as appropriate, to enable it to support the mainstreaming of South-South cooperation across the United Nations development system;

9. *Invites* the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to consider, as part of the broader board-level discussion on cost recovery measures, measures to reduce the cost-sharing fees charged from the budget for South-South cooperation programmes and projects implemented with their support;

10. *Decides* to consider the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system[8] and the related note by the Secretary-General[9] as part of the agenda and official documentation of its seventeenth session, to hold proper discussions on the recommendations contained therein, and to take further action upon it;

11. *Also decides* that the present decision shall be submitted for consideration during the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit a comprehensive report on progress made in implementing the present decision to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its eighteenth session.

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[8] See A/66/717.

[9] A/66/717/Add.1.